

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11-1826

DD/P

25X1A9a

25 SEP 1959

Report Officer

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)  
 Deputy Director (Plans)  
 Deputy Director (Support)  
 Mr. [REDACTED] (Through DD/I)

25X1A9a

SUBJECT : Mechanical Linguistics\*

25X1A5a1

1. For the past 3½ years, CIA and the [REDACTED] jointly have been sponsoring research in the mechanical translation of Russian, French, and the minor Slavic languages to English and English to Chinese and Arabic. During this period, Mr. [REDACTED] as the Agency monitor has consulted informally with the DD/P Materiel Board on language priorities, OSI on priority of disciplines for glossary production, FDD on the linguistic aspect of the project, and the Management Staff on machine capabilities.

2. A more formal mechanism is required for providing advice and guidance for the development and implementation of this program. This is particularly necessary in view of the fact that our program is now moving out of research into the operational phase for translation of Russian organic chemistry literature. With this level of accomplishment comes requirements for guidance and advice in carrying on the operational phase and expansion of the capability.

3. Mr. [REDACTED] is designated CIA Mechanical Linguistics Project Officer. He will be responsible for the preparation of programs of research, development and operations in mechanical linguistics, in consultation with the CIA Mechanical Linguistics Advisory Committee. Upon approval of such programs by the DCI, Mr. [REDACTED] will supervise their execution. The designation of Mr. [REDACTED] as Monitor of the Agency research program in mechanical translation made in PRO Action paper, DDI 249-56, 9 June 1956 is hereby rescinded.

4. A CIA Mechanical Linguistics Advisory Committee is hereby established under the chairmanship of the Project Officer. In addition to Mr. [REDACTED], membership will be composed of appropriate representatives appointed by the [REDACTED]

\* "Mechanical Linguistics" is the term now applied to comprehend translation from one natural language to another by mechanical means together with all the analytical techniques necessary to produce lexicons and to do structural analysis of languages by machine. The term also includes application of these techniques to problems in information theory such as the resolution of lexical ambiguities for the mechanical storage and retrieval of information, semantic categorization, and the reconstruction of garbled passages in communications. The already well-known methods of statistical analysis, symbolic logic, and matrix algebra have been used to interpret the rules of linguistics with the aid of electromechanical devices.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

DD/I, DD/P, and DD/S. In the case of need for specialized advice outside the competence of the members of the Advisory Committee, the Committee is authorized and expected to obtain such advice from any component of CIA.

25X1A9a      5. Mr. [REDACTED] will report to the DD/I, through the AD/CR, on all matters pertaining to mechanical linguistics.

6. The duties of the Advisory Committee shall be to advise the Project Officer on all aspects of the mechanical linguistics program. At the request of any member of the Committee, the chairman shall report to the DD/I, any matter which the member considers should be brought to the attention of higher authority.

25X1A9a      7. The Chairman of the Committee on Documentation of the USIB (CODIB),  
25X1A9a      the AD/CR, has appointed Mr. [REDACTED] to chair the CODIB subcommittee on mechanical linguistics. Mr. [REDACTED] will thus be able to represent the Agency position in the community and any community position in the Agency.

8. Proposals or inquiries addressed to or received by an element of CIA involving mechanical linguistics are to be referred to the Project Officer.

SIGNED

C. P. CABELL  
General, USAF  
Deputy Director

CONFIDENTIAL